iBook FAQ

Overview

Q. What's new about iBook?

A. Plenty. iBook has been completely redesigned in an all-new, smaller and lighter enclosure. iBook now measures 11.2 by 9.1 by 1.3 inches and weighs only 4.9 pounds.[1] It features a 500-MHz PowerPC G3 processor with 256K on-chip level 2 cache, 64MB or 128MB of PC100 SDRAM, a 10GB Ultra ATA hard disk drive,[2] and a built-in 12.1-inch (diagonal) TFT XGA active-matrix color display. You get your choice of a 24x-speed (maximum) CD-ROM drive, an 8x-speed (maximum) DVD-ROM drive, or an 8x4x24x-speed (maximum) CD-RW drive.

In addition to a FireWire port, an AV port, and iMovie software, iBook now includes two USB ports instead of one, RGB output for connecting to a large display, iTunes software, stereo speakers, and a built-in microphone.

Q. Can I boost the storage capacity of my iBook?

A. Yes. While each iBook comes standard with a 10GB Ultra ATA hard disk drive, you can order a 20GB Ultra ATA hard disk drive[2] as an option from the Apple Store at www.apple.com/store or 800-MY-APPLE. Or you can easily expand your computer's capacity simply by adding an external USB or FireWire Zip drive or hard disk drive.

Q. Is iBook compatible with Mac OS X?

A. Yes. All iBook systems are compatible with Mac OS X. Some systems need additional memory to meet the Mac OS X requirement of 128MB of RAM.

Q. Is Mac OS X included with iBook?

A. Not at this time. The iBook comes with Mac OS 9.1.

Design

Q. What is the iBook enclosure made of?

A. It's made of ultrasturdy polycarbonate. The iBook enclosure withstands everyday wear and tear beautifully.

Q. How does the durability of the new iBook compare with that of the previous system?

A. Like the original iBook, the new model was designed with students—and a tough life in and out of a backpack—in mind. It features an internal magnesium frame for extra strength, and the hard drive is rubber-mounted for impact resistance. As always, there are no doors, protruding latches, or levers to break or get snagged.

Memory

Q. What kind of memory does the new iBook require?

A. The new iBook accepts one 32MB, 64MB, 128MB, 256MB 44-pin, or 512MB PC100-compliant 1.25-inch SO-DIMM.

Q. Can I install additional memory myself?

A. Absolutely—and you can have it operating in minutes. Simply follow the instructions available via the online help in your iBook system. Or, if you prefer, an authorized Apple service provider can install additional memory for you. You can also purchase iBook with more memory preinstalled from the Apple Store at www.apple.com/store or 800-MY-APPLE.

Q. Does iBook use the same kind of memory as the PowerBook G4?

A. Yes. PowerBook G4 SO-DIMMs meeting the iBook requirement of 1.25 inches can be used in iBook systems, and iBook SO-DIMMs that are PC100 compliant can be used in PowerBook systems.

Display and Graphics

Q. Can iBook connect to an external display?

A. Yes. The iBook now supports RGB output, so you can connect it to any RGB display.

Q. Can iBook connect to all of Apple's displays?

A. iBook works with most Apple VGA displays sold within the last eight years, with the following exceptions: Apple Multiple Scan 17, Apple Multiple Scan 20, AudioVision 14, AppleColor High-Resolution RGB, Macintosh 16" Color, Apple High-Resolution Monochrome, and Macintosh 12" RGB displays.

Q. Does iBook support the Apple Display Connector (ADC)?

A. No. Apple displays with the ADC are supported only by Power Mac G4 computers with ADC and the Power Mac G4 Cube. You can, however, use iBook with monitors and projectors featuring an RGB port.

Q. What do I need to connect iBook to a television?

A. Because iBook supports composite video output and has presentation mirroring capabilities, you can connect the iBook AV port to virtually any television or projector. The Apple AV Cable is required for connecting iBook to a television, and is available at the Apple Store or from your local authorized Apple reseller.

Q. How much video memory comes with the iBook system? Is it upgradable?

A. iBook comes with 8MB of video memory embedded in the graphics chip. Because this memory is embedded, it cannot be expanded; however, 8MB of SDRAM is more than enough to support millions of colors and to run the most popular games much faster than most notebook computers can.

Apple Software for Movies and Music

Q. What is iMovie?

A. Your new iBook comes with preinstalled iMovie 2 software that allows you to create compelling digital movies using existing digital video footage. iMovie 2 includes all the great features of iMovie, plus next-generation tools that give you even greater control and creative freedom.

You can transfer video clips to and from your digital camcorder, edit and arrange them into story lines, enhance them with professional-looking transitions and onscreen titles—even add music and visual effects. Then view your masterpieces full screen on your iBook, save them back to your camcorder to watch on TV, or make them the cornerstone of your own personal home page on the Internet using iTools.

Q. What do I need to make a Desktop Movie?

A. With the exception of a DV camcorder and a FireWire cable, iBook includes everything you need to make movies: a built-in FireWire port; preinstalled iMovie 2 software; and enough processing power, memory, and disk storage to get you started.

Q. What is iTunes?

A. iTunes is a fun, breakthrough application that lets you easily create MP3 files from your audio CDs, manage your MP3 collection, and create personal playlists. Your new iBook comes with Apple's iTunes software preinstalled on the hard drive.[3] With an Internet connection, you can also use iTunes to listen to a wide range of streaming music stations. You can play your MP3 files on your iBook or download your playlists to a portable MP3 player. If your iBook has a CD-RW drive, you can even burn your favorite mixes onto CDs.

Input/Output Technologies

Q. What input/output ports does iBook feature?

A. Every iBook system includes the following:

- Two 12-Mbps USB ports
- One 400-Mbps FireWire port[4]
- RJ-45 connector for built-in 10/100BASE-T Ethernet
- RJ-11 connector for built-in 56K V.90 modem[5]
- RGB port for viewing on a larger external display
- AV port for "big-screen" viewing of movies on virtually any TV (requires Apple AV Cable) or for connecting headphones
- Power adapter port

Q. Can iBook power FireWire devices?

A. Yes. The FireWire port in iBook provides up to 6 watts of power for FireWire devices. That means devices such as a VST external hard drive can be used without an external power adapter.

Q. Can I use the FireWire port to connect another computer to my iBook?

A. Certainly. Like Apple PowerBook computers, iBook supports FireWire Target Disk Mode. Using this mode, you can connect any FireWire-equipped Macintosh to your iBook. The second computer will appear on your desktop as an external hard disk, providing a fast, convenient way to move files from one system to another.

To use Target Disk Mode, simply connect the computers using a FireWire cable, then start the second computer while holding down the "T" key on its keyboard.

Q. What battery technology does iBook use? What is the life between charges?

A. iBook employs a lithium-ion battery rated at 42 watt-hours. The iBook battery can last up to 5 hours between charges depending on configuration and use.

Q. How long does it take to charge the battery?

A. When the system is in sleep mode or shut down, the battery takes roughly 2 hours to charge. When your iBook is running, the battery charges fully in about 6 hours.

Q. Why are there lights at the bottom of the battery?

A. These four lights are battery charge indicators, which function whether the battery is in or out of your computer. By pressing the button beside them, you can illuminate the lights and gauge how much charge is left in the battery. The lights indicate the amount of charge in one-quarter increments, and also illuminate when you plug the system into AC power, indicating that the battery is charging. The lights go off after charging is complete.

Q. Does the power adapter used with previous iBook models work with the new iBook?

A. No. The power adapter port in your new iBook does not work with the power adapter included with previous iBook models.

Wireless Networking

Q. What do I need to add AirPort wireless networking to iBook?

A. Just two things: an AirPort Card and an AirPort Base Station.[6] Your iBook comes with a built-in antenna and a card slot designed specifically for the AirPort Card. AirPort software is included with the Mac OS installed in every iBook system.

Q. Can I install AirPort myself?

A. Yes—and you can have it operating in minutes. Simply follow the included instructions, put the AirPort Card in the appropriate slot in your computer, and run the AirPort Setup Assistant software. Setup Assistant will walk you through the process and automatically configure your computer for AirPort. Or, if you prefer, an authorized Apple service provider can install AirPort for you. You can also purchase your iBook from the Apple Store with an AirPort Card preinstalled.

Q. Does iBook support IrDA (infrared) communications?

A. iBook does not support the IrDA capability. Instead, it features built-in Ethernet capabilities and provides optional AirPort wireless local area network access.

Keyboard

Q. What do the programmable function keys do?

A. The F7 through F11 keys can be programmed by the user to simplify common tasks. Once programmed, a single key can be pressed to launch a browser, an email application, or any other frequently used application or server. The keys can also be easily reprogrammed to perform other functions.

Q. How do I set the programmable function keys?

A. It's easy. Just open the Keyboard control panel in the Apple menu. Or, if the keys have not been programmed, simply press one of them to bring up a dialog box that will lead you to the Keyboard control panel.

Q. Can I secure the keyboard to prevent easy access to computer memory and the AirPort Card?

A. An optional keyboard locking mechanism provides extra security for iBook. To activate the keyboard lock, locate the Num Lock LED key between the F5 and F6 keys on your keyboard. The round LED light in the center of the Num Lock key is also a small, translucent retaining screw. Turning the screw secures the keyboard.

Audio

Q. Can I add external speakers to iBook?

A. Yes. You can connect speakers via the AV port or the USB port, depending on the speakers' design. The AV port can also be used for composite video output to an external television or projector, which requires the Apple AV Cable.

Security

Q. Is there a way to lock iBook to a desk?

A. iBook has a built-in security cable lock slot, located on the right rear side of the computer. Kensington and other suppliers make low-profile lock designs that work well with iBook.

Optical Drives

Q. There is no eject button near the DVD, CD-RW, or CD-ROM drive. How do I remove the CD or DVD?

A. To eject a CD or DVD, or open the drive tray, press the media-eject button (F12) on the keyboard. You can also eject a disc by selecting Eject from the Special menu; dragging the disc's icon into the Trash; or selecting the icon and pressing Command-E. If you cannot remove the disc using any of these methods, use a paper clip to press the eject switch on the drive door.

Q. Can the DVD-ROM drive play CDs and DVD movies?

A. Yes. The DVD-ROM drive reads all the same formats as a CD-ROM drive, including audio CDs, Photo CDs, and software CDs. The drive also plays DVD movies.

Q. Can I use my iBook with a DVD-ROM drive to play DVD movies on my television?

A. iBook features an AV port that allows you to play DVD movies on almost any TV that has a composite video input port. All that's needed is the Apple AV Cable, which is available at the Apple Store or from your authorized Apple reseller.

Q. Can the DVD-ROM drive read DVD discs created on other computers?

A. The DVD-ROM drive is intended to play back DVD videos and read DVD-ROM titles. While it can read CD-RW discs, it cannot read recordable DVD media such as DVD-RAM. Refer to Mac Help on your iBook or the Apple technical information at www.apple.com/support for complete disc compatibility specifications.

Q. Can I use iTunes and my new iBook to burn music CDs?

A. If your iBook has a built-in CD-RW drive, you can use it with the included iTunes software to rip, mix, and burn your own music CDs.[3]

Q. Can an iBook with the internal CD-RW drive be used to burn data CDs?

A. Yes. The capability to create data CDs is built right into Mac OS 9.1. Simply drag the files you want to burn onto the disc's icon on the desktop.

Q. What is the difference between CD-R and CD-RW media?

A. CD-R is short for CD-recordable, and CD-RW is short for CD-rewritable. CD-R discs are write-once, read-multiple media, while CD-RW discs can be written and erased many times. CD-R discs are highly compatible with consumer audio players and typically cost about half as much as CD-RW discs. Because CD-RW discs can be erased and reused, they are ideal for computer data and music storage. Note that standard audio CD players do not play audio files stored on CD-RW discs.

1 Weight varies by configuration.

2 For hard drive capacity measurements, 1GB = 1 billion bytes; actual formatted capacity less.

3 iTunes is licensed for reproduction of noncopyrighted materials or materials the user is legally permitted to reproduce.

4 Actual rates will vary.

5 Actual modem speeds lower; speed depends on connection rate and other factors.

6 Wireless Internet access requires AirPort Card, AirPort Base Station, and Internet access (fees may apply). Some ISPs are not currently compatible with AirPort, including America Online. Range may vary with site conditions.

For More Information

For more information about iBook, visit www.apple.com/ibook.

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